

Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.-74. (canceled)

75. (new) A method for setting up a telephone connection for a telephone conference among a plurality of conferees comprising:

- sending a message to a switch interface over an Internet Protocol ("IP") network requesting a telephone connection to a conferee telephone device at a specified telephone number in a switched telephone network, the message sent as the payload of a User Datagram Protocol ("UDP") datagram;

- sending a Signaling System 7 ("SS7") command to the switched telephone network in response to the datagram, the command requesting the telephone connection;

- receiving connection status information from the switched telephone network relating to the telephone connection, the received information indicating that the telephone device has gone off-hook;

- converting the received information for transmission over the IP network; and
- sending the converted information over the IP network, the converted information sent as the payload of a UDP datagram, the datagram further comprising administrative information.

76. (new) The method to claim 75, further comprising:

- sending a message over an IP network requesting a second telephone connection to a second conferee for the conference among a plurality of conferees.

77. (new) The method according to claim 76, further comprising:

- receiving a message over an IP network that at least one of the telephone connections has been disconnected.

78. (new) The method according to claim 76, further comprising:

 sending a message over an IP network requesting the disconnection of at least one of the telephone connections.

79. (new) The method of claim 75 in which the message is a fixed length message.

80. (new) The method according to claim 75 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

81. (new) The method according to claim 76 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

82. (new) The method according to claim 77 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

83. (new) The method according to claim 78 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

84. (new) The method according to claim 75 in which the IP network is at least one of: the Internet or a private IP network.

85. (new) The method according to claim 75 in which converting the received information includes using a lookup table.

86. (new) A system for setting up a telephone connection for a telephone conference among a plurality of conferees comprising:

 a digital computer and a switch interface;

 the digital computer sending a message to the switch interface over an Internet Protocol ("IP") network requesting a telephone connection to a conferee telephone device

at a specified telephone number in a switched telephone network, the message sent as the payload of a User Datagram Protocol ("UDP") datagram;

the switch interface sending a Signaling System 7 ("SS7") command to the switched telephone network in response to the datagram, the command requesting the telephone connection;

the switch interface receiving connection status information from the switched telephone network relating to the telephone connection, the received information indicating that the telephone device has gone off-hook;

the switch interface converting the received information for transmission over the IP network; and

the switch interface sending the converted information over the IP network to the digital computer, the converted information sent as the payload of a UDP datagram, the datagram further comprising administrative information.

87. (new) The system according to claim 86, further comprising:

the digital computer sending a message over an IP network requesting a second telephone connection to a second conferee for the conference among a plurality of conferees.

88. (new) The system according to claim 87, further comprising:

the digital computer receiving a message over an IP network that at least one of the telephone connections has been disconnected.

89. (new) The system according to claim 87, further comprising:

the digital computer sending a message over an IP network requesting the disconnection of at least one of the telephone connections.

90. (new) The system according to claim 86 in which the message is a fixed length message.

91. (new) The system according to claim 86 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

92. The system according to claim 87 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

93. (new) The system according to claim 88 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

94. (new) The system according to claim 89 in which the administrative information comprises a connection identification for a telephone connection.

95. (new) The system according to claim 86 in which the IP network is at least one: the Internet or a private IP network.

96. (new) The system according to claim 86 in which converting the received information includes using a lookup table.

97. (new) The system according to claim 86 in which the digital computer is located at a conferee station.